

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Possible Worker Exposures

Workers may have been exposed to many hazardous substances, including radiation, uranium, nickel, plutonium, fluorines, asbestos, chlorinated solvents, chemicals and such heavy metals cadmium and mercury. The Department of Energy is currently conducting an independent investigation into concerns that, until 1990, workers may not have been adequately informed of hazards at the site or given training on how to protect themselves from their possible health impacts.

Public Meeting on Worker Health and Benefits

A public meeting with the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels was held on October 30, 1999, in Piketon, Ohio. A transcript from the meeting, attended by about 250 is available at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/benefits/meetings/meetings.html>.

Important Contact Information

U.S. Department of Energy Workers' Compensation Helpline (toll-free): **877-447-9756**

U.S. Department of Energy Benefits Website: **<http://www.eh.doe.gov/benefits>**

Site Background

Since 1955, the Department of Energy's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant has continuously enriched uranium. Until the mid 1960s, uranium enriched at the plant was used for nuclear weapons. Until the early 1990s, the plant produced highly enriched uranium for naval ships propelled by nuclear reactors. Today, uranium enriched at the site is used as fuel in commercial nuclear power plants. The Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant is located on 3,714 acres near Piketon in rural Ohio, 65 miles south of Columbus.

Management and Operating Contractor:	Bechtel Jacobs Company, LLC
Lessee to U.S. Department of Energy:	United States Enrichment Corporation
Number of current contractor employees:	2,300 (estimated; includes 2,100 USEC employees)
Historical number of contractor employees:	10,000 (estimated)